

Vol. 12 H.O.H's Com. Placements

CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

AND

PORT SANITARY DISTRICT

1920

ROCHESTER

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Extract from Circular 66 of the Ministry of Health.

January, 1920.

“ Council should arrange for the Report to be distributed locally, as soon as it is available, as widely as possible, and should take steps through the local press and otherwise to bring its contents effectively to the knowledge of the people.”

City of Rochester



Report as to Urban District

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GUILDHALL.
April 14th, 1921.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report as to the Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1920.

The Report for 1919 was very full and closely followed the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health. The same course is adopted with this Report, except that it has not been thought necessary to deal with several matters which do not alter much from year to year, and which were fully considered in the 1919 Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

AREA, in acres, land and inland water, 2,936.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| RATEABLE VALUE | | | Poor Rate.. .. | £142,793 | |
| | | | General District Rate .. | £132,384 | |
| A ONE PENNY RATE PRODUCES | {Borough Rate | | | £593 | |
| | {Education Rate | | | £580 | |
| | {General District Rate | | | £539 | |
| | | | Census 1891. | Census 1901. | Census 1911. |
| POPULATION | | .. | 26,290 | 30,590 | 31,388 |
| INHABITED HOUSES | | .. | 5,076 | 6,236 | 7,017 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the District at the middle of 1920, according to the Registrar-General, was, for estimating the Death Rate, 33,389 ; and for estimating the Birth Rate, 33,849. The respective figures for 1919 were 32,110 and 33,449 ; for 1918, 28,316 and 31,727 ; and for 1917, 28,896 and 32,211.

The forthcoming Census will shew how accurate or otherwise these estimates are.

For all purposes of calculation the Registrar-General's figures are accepted in this Report.

BIRTHS.

During the year 803 births were registered, of which 25 were illegitimate. The total was made up as follows :—

| | | | Male | Female | Total |
|-------|----|----|-------|--------|-------|
| South | .. | .. | 240 | 214 | 454 |
| North | .. | .. | 186 | 163 | 349 |
| | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | | 426 | 377 | 803 |

This gives a Birth Rate of 23.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The Birth Rate is 5.8 higher than in 1919, and is the highest since 1912, when it was 23.8.

The natural increase of population, by excess of births over deaths, was 422. In 1919 it was 237, and its average for the preceding 10 years is 269.

DEATHS.

The number of nett deaths in the year, that is, of residents dying either within or without the District, was 381 ; 185 males and 196 females.

The number of inward transfers, that is, of Rochester residents dying without the District, was 47. In 1919 the total number of deaths was 365, and the average of the preceding 10 years is 420.

Further Vital Statistics dealing fully with the above figures will be found in the Tables embodied in this Report.

The Death Rate for the year, all ages and all causes, was 11.4.

The Birth Rate was 23.7.

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births registered was 67.2.

The Zymotic Death Rate was .47.

The following Table shews a comparison between the “ Rates ” in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1920.

| | | | | | Birth Rate. | Death Rate. | Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| England and Wales | .. | .. | .. | | 25.4 | 12.4 | 80 |
| 96 Great Towns | .. | .. | .. | | 26.2 | 12.5 | 85 |
| 148 Smaller Towns | .. | .. | .. | | 24.9 | 11.3 | 80 |
| London | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26.3 | 12.4 | 75 |
| Rochester | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23.7 | 11.4 | 67.2 |

THE DEATH RATE.

The recorded Death Rate, from all causes, was 11.4. The average of the preceding five years is 13.06.

| | 1911 | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Death Rate, all causes .. and ages. | 15.4 | 12.6 | 10.8 | 12.9 | 14.6 | 13.5 | 12.9 | 16.6 | 11.3 | 11.4 |
| Infant Mortality Rate .. | 115 | 83.7 | 80 | 79.7 | 80.1 | 74.6 | 90.3 | 89.5 | 66.4 | 67.2 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Measles | 34 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 4 |
| Scarlet Fever | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough .. | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Phthisis | 34 | 35 | 29 | 23 | 36 | 31 | 28 | 40 | 33 | 22 |
| Other tuberculous diseases | 17 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| Influenza | | | | | | | | 108 | 48 | 8 |
| Cancer | 34 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 40 | 26 | 31 | 34 | 35 |
| Bronchitis | 33 | 28 | 20 | 37 | 46 | 27 | 39 | 39 | 32 | 32 |
| Pneumonia | 27 | 29 | 22 | 14 | 27 | 24 | 19 | 26 | 21 | 35 |
| Diarrhœa | 38 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Premature Birth .. | 37 | 23 | 25 | 19 | 19 | 22 | 16 | 22 | 15 | 18 |
| Accidents | 10 | 8 | 18 | 22 | 19 | 7 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 12 |
| Suicides | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| Heart Diseases | 48 | 42 | 33 | 44 | 45 | 48 | 32 | 33 | 30 | 38 |
| All other Causes .. | 157 | 153 | 132 | 167 | 191 | 180 | 179 | 133 | 121 | 152 |
| Total .. | 485 | 399 | 344 | 409 | 465 | 411 | 373 | 471 | 365 | 381 |

The points to be noted in this Table are the continued absence of deaths from Scarlet Fever ; the decline in deaths from Phthisis ; the great diminution in deaths from Influenza ; the increase in deaths from Pneumonia, being the highest for many years ; and the continued low mortality from Diarrhœa, the last having great influence in maintaining a low Infant Mortality Rate.

DEATHS OF OLD PEOPLE.

The following deaths of people over the age of 65 years took place :

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|--------|----|----|
| 65-70 | .. | 30 | 85-90 | .. | 16 |
| 70-75 | .. | 30 | 90-95 | .. | 6 |
| 75-80 | .. | 44 | 95-100 | | 1 |
| 80-85 | .. | 25 | | | |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The sources of the Water Supply have undergone no change, and have been fully described in previous Reports. The quality of the water has been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year. The supply on the North side of the River, which was formerly under such suspicion, has shewn no evidence of organic contamination on any of the numerous occasions on which it has been examined. None the less it is still treated with Chloros and subsequent filtration, and, having regard to all the circumstances, it would not be wise to abandon this precaution. On both sides of the River the supply is constant and sufficient.

RIVERS.

Particulars as to the pollution of the River Medway, which flows through the District, have been fully given in previous Reports and have undergone no change. No case of illness attributable to the consumption of polluted shell fish, gathered from the River, arose during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

These were fully described in the Report for 1919. The general disposal of sewage is by Cesspools, and year by year these give more trouble. As they get older their power of soakage diminishes, with the result that they require more frequent emptying, and often in wet seasons the number of cesspools requiring to be emptied is greater than can be promptly dealt with. The result of this is occasional overflowing of sewage in the close proximity to dwelling houses, constituting an undoubted nuisance, but, as far as is known, never giving rise to definite cases of illness. In order to deal with this an additional steam tractor has been bought during the year, the number of such tractors now being five. The progressive increase, year by year, of the number of loads of sewage taken from the cesspools appears in the Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 7.

No further steps have been taken in the project of combining with the adjoining Borough of Chatham to instal a system of Water Carried Sewage.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Nearly all the houses in the District have w.c's which drain into cesspools. In outlying parts, however, and in some localities in which it is impossible to dig cesspools there are open privies. Of these there are still about 200 in the District. During the year 58 have been converted into w.c's, or demolished, or replaced by w.c's. In the last 13 years, 762 open privies have ceased to exist in this District.

SCAVENGING.

Household refuse is removed every day from the High Street and on alternate days from other parts of the District. The covered Motor Wagons which are now used continue to do their work efficiently, and their cost, it is stated, would shew a saving over the former horse drawn wagons if it were not for the high price of petrol.

All refuse is deposited in a heap on the North side of the River, where it provides a breeding ground for flies and rats, but otherwise gives rise to little complaint. It is the practice of the large majority of the citizens to use any old broken box or bucket for the reception of their household refuse and, although repeatedly urged in these Reports, no steps have been taken to insist on the provision of proper covered Sanitary Dust Bins.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my thirteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Inspection of the City.

The year 1920 was an exceedingly busy one in connection with endeavours to secure sanitary improvements in the dwelling houses in the City. The appointment of an additional temporary Assistant Inspector was found necessary in order to cope with the demands of occupiers to have their houses inspected; but even a staff of three Inspectors found it difficult to prevent complaints being made about delay in making necessary inspections.

In the course of the year defects and insanitary conditions were found to exist in 817 premises, and in the attached Summary of Work Done will be found details of 2,893 improvements effected through the service of notices on responsible persons. The difficulty experienced in 1919 in getting owners to carry out work diminished very little, if at all, in 1920. The cost of alterations and repairs is still very high, and there is a great reluctance to spend the equivalent of four or five years' rental or more on cottages where the owner's own income has been considerably reduced in value by the results of the war. In some instances, and not a few, owners are so poor that they have not the necessary money, and in such cases there seems to be no prospect of getting anything done excepting by the Council in default. The Housing Acts make provision for this, and for recovery by the collection of rents, but it is also stipulated that 5 per cent. interest only may be charged on such expenditure, whereas money may have to be loaned by the Council from the bank at a higher rate. It is thus obvious that any extensive use of the powers for carrying out work in default will result in an additional charge on the rates, besides increasing the amount of work in the Health Department. A useful index to the difficulties experienced in getting owners to carry out the requirements of notices is the number of cases reported to the Health Committee because intimation notices have been ignored. In 1920 the number of premises so reported was 292. At the end of the year, in spite of notices, interviews and correspondence—all taking up much valuable time—there were 367 premises under notice and where the work had not been commenced.

The total number of inspections and visits to premises which come under the control and supervision of the Health Department was 7,966. This large amount of outdoor work made it an impossibility to maintain the office records and other clerical work in a desirable state of efficiency.

COMPLAINTS.

I have again to record an increased number of complaints as to the existence of nuisances and defects. 376 complaints were received at the office and dealt with during the past year. The making of complaints was accentuated by the increases of rent made under the Rent Restriction, &c., Act, many tenants requesting that their houses should be made "in all respects reasonably fit for habitation." There undoubtedly is a big change in the attitude of tenants towards their landlords, and the office records show a growing tendency for tenants to use the Public Health Department as a normal course of action whenever they cannot get housing defects put right without delay.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

As in 1919, so in the year under report, pressure of general work rendered it impossible to institute a systematic course of house-to-house inspection in any particular part of the City, but special circumstances resulted in the following properties being reported to the Health Committee under the Housing Acts :—

| | | | |
|--|---|---|----|
| 23 to 27 Miles Place | 3 | 14 Clarence Avenue | 1 |
| 18 to 28 Henry Street | 6 | 106, 108 and 108a Delce Road | 3 |
| 6 to 11 Jerusalem Row | 6 | 9 to 17 Laura Place, Borstal | 5 |
| 25 King Street | 1 | 112, 114, 115, 116, 132 to 136 Borstal Street | 7 |
| 85, 87, 93 to 99 Princes Street | 6 | 59 to 75, 91 to 107, and 92 to 110 Frinds- | |
| 9 to 19 Thomas Street | 6 | bury Road | 28 |
| 86 and 88 Burritt Street | 2 | 1 and 2 Kimmins Cottages | 2 |
| 2 and 3 Albert Road | 2 | 42 to 50 and 43 to 49 Wykeham Street ... | 9 |
| 11 to 19 Baker Street | 5 | | — |
| 17 and 19 Love Lane | 2 | | 97 |
| 6, 7 and 8 Hoopers Square | 3 | | — |

The conditions found in each house were recorded on the inspection cards, and these cards were submitted to the Health Committee in connection with the reports made. The details and total number of defects, &c., in the 97 houses were as follows :—

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|-------|
| Insufficient light to rooms | 26 | Offensive privies | 24 |
| Dampness | 59 | Defective drains | 40 |
| Defective wall and ceiling plaster | 252 | Dangerous cesspools | 2 |
| Dirty walls and ceilings | 382 | Insufficient drainage | 23 |
| Verminous walls | 33 | Absence of sinks or defective sinks and waste- | |
| Defective floors | 150 | pipes | 58 |
| Defective windows | 267 | Defective or insufficient yard paving ... | 71 |
| Defective roofs | 86 | Absence of water supply in house | 38 |
| Absence of or defective rain water pipes ... | 69 | Miscellaneous | 495 |
| Defective or foul w.c.'s | 27 | | — |
| W.C.'s without flushing apparatus | 30 | Total | 2,132 |

Of the 97 houses inspected, nine were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to render it necessary for representations to be made to the Council for Closing Orders under Section 17, Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909. In each case Closing Orders were made by the Council, and the following were the houses affected :—

No. 50 Wykeham Street.
Nos. 91 to 101 Frindsbury Road.
Nos. 3 and 7 Delce Road.

No. 3 Delce Road was subsequently thoroughly overhauled, and later the Closing Order was determined. With regard to the other eight houses, it has not been possible to give practical effect to the Closing Orders, as the tenants have been unable to obtain other housing accommodation.

Two houses—The Cottage, Boundary Wharf, and No. 72 King Street—were demolished during the year. The former house, upon representation of its condition, was voluntarily closed by the owner in 1919, and its demolition was also secured without a formal Order. The house in King Street was closed in 1913, but was allowed to be used as a store until 1920, when, after representation to the owner, it was demolished.

With regard to the houses inspected in 1920, and not made the subject of Closing Orders, detailed schedules of work necessary were prepared and served on the owners. In 49 instances, because nothing was done, it was necessary to follow up these schedules with statutory notices under Section 28, Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919. Only 26 of the houses have been thoroughly overhauled, and considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting the work done at the other properties. In the case of 28 of the latter houses the owners pleaded that they were entirely without means to meet the necessary expenditure, and there was no reason for doubting their statements. In two instances, affecting 10 of the houses, the owners have sold their property and the purchaser has agreed to carry out the required alterations and improvements. In most of the other cases the work probably will have to be done in default by the Council.

Procedure under the Housing and Public Health Acts is at present considerably hampered by the rather general chaotic housing conditions. The houses in the worst condition cannot be touched, because the only remedy for their shortcomings is closure and demolition. A tinkering policy is simply waste of money, and, what is more, the owners decline to do anything, as they know that the houses are scheduled for closure as soon as housing conditions will permit it. It is useless to make Closing Orders, as alternative accommodation cannot be found for the tenants, and if an intimation is served for any improvements, the owners can give notice that the premises cannot be rendered properly habitable without reconstruction, and may demand a Closing Order, which could not be refused. In some cases it has occurred that adjoining property, which can be made habitable, is made the subject of notices under Section 28, Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, and the owners are naturally resistant to the demands of the Health Department because, as they point out, owners of much worse property are being left alone to collect their rents without being called upon to do any repairs. Incidentally, the tenants living under the most insanitary conditions are left to their fate through force of circumstances. Another factor which has militated

against notices being complied with is the fact that many houses let to one family are now occupied by two, and consequently are being subjected to double wear and tear, while the owner receives no additional rent. While many owners must be blamed for their neglect to maintain their property in a reasonable state of repair, it is only fair to state that in some instances they have a real grievance and one which creates additional difficulty in the administration of housing enactments.

Action had to be taken against nine tenants because of the dirty condition of their houses, and in each case subsequent visits were made to see that the houses were thoroughly cleansed. The number of cases where houses or parts of houses were found to be in a verminous condition was considerable, and there is reason to believe that the dual occupation of houses is increasing this trouble. To clear a house of vermin is a most difficult task, and in fact the best that can be done under existing circumstances is to attempt to destroy by fumigation or otherwise as many of the vermin as possible, and leave it to the tenant to prevent multiplication or secure eradication by constant subsequent vigilance. In some of the oldest houses, where the general structure is such as to afford every facility for harbouring vermin, it is hopeless to expect that any procedure will ever really clear them of the trouble.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

One of the outstanding features of the work carried out during 1920 was the amount of new drainage ; 112 houses were completely re-drained, 37 houses were partly re-drained, and the drains of five other houses were repaired. Where owners are requested to provide new drainage they are supplied with plans of the suggested new schemes, so that they may obtain estimates of the cost, and in order to provide guides to the builders in the actual execution of the work. The preparation of these plans is not really part of an Inspector's duty, but the extra trouble it entails is counter-balanced by the fact that it enables an owner to know to what he is being committed, and also assists in securing proper workmanship on the part of the builder. To ensure the latter, too, daily visits to work in progress are made, and all new work is tested before being passed. Plans of new drains were filed away for future reference.

An appreciable step forward in the abolition of the remaining privies in the City was made during 1920, as 58 were replaced by water closets with pans, traps, flushing apparatus and drainage. 136 w.c.'s were provided with new pans and traps, and 123 were fitted with new flushing apparatus. Many of the w.c.'s previously had been without any flushing apparatus and water supply. 25 new w.c. apartments were built.

New sinks were provided in 121 houses, and here again the provision in many cases represented an addition to the sanitary equipment of the houses. In connection with this work 17 houses were provided with water supply in the houses instead of from standpipes outside.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

7,483 loads of sewage were pumped out of cesspools during 1920, this representing an increase of 970 loads over the figures for 1919. The addition to the emptying plant of a fifth tractor materially assisted in the work being done without many complaints being made because of delay in emptying, but the fact that 1920 was a comparatively dry year in the matter of rainfall makes it clear that each year the task of dealing with the normal amount of cesspool sewage is rapidly growing. As evidence of this increase in the work the following table is given.

| Loads removed | | | | | Loads removed | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1908 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3549 | 1915 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1909 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3991 | 1916 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1910 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3988 | 1917 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1911 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4745 | 1918 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1912 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4690 | 1919 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1913 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4912 | 1920 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1914 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5090 | | | | |

The increased work and cost of emptying cesspools has been a matter of special consideration for the Council, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to deal with premises needing an excessive amount of attention. A list compiled showed that there are 108 cesspools in the City which need emptying six or more times a year, and I have been instructed to report on these premises as early as possible. Unfortunately pressure of other work has delayed the making of the investigations necessary for such reports.

There are three night gangs, each working with two wagons, for the emptying of privy pits and the removal of sludge from the bottom of cesspools. During the past year these gangs removed 663 loads of sewage from privies and 1010 loads of sludge from cesspools. The total of 1,673 loads, which shows an increase of 419 loads on the total of 1919, is accounted for by the fact that since the end of May the gangs have worked six nights per week instead of five as formerly.

“SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The supervision of slaughter houses and the inspection of food was given as much attention as was possible having regard to the demands of other work. One effect of the war has been to lead people to consume a much larger proportion of imported frozen meat than they did in pre-war times, and consequently the amount of slaughtering of live animals in the city has diminished. The subjoined list of food condemned shows that this branch of inspection work was not without results in the interests of the consumer.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 13 carcasses of cows | ... | ... | ... | (tuberculosis) |
| 1 carcase of a heifer | ... | ... | ... | do. |
| 3 forequarters of cows | ... | ... | ... | do. |
| 2 hindquarters of a heifer | ... | ... | ... | do. |
| 2 forequarters of a bull | ... | ... | ... | do. |
| 5 carcasses of pork | ... | ... | ... | do. |
| 9 carcasses of pork | ... | ... | ... | (swine fever) |
| 5 pigs' heads and 1 cow's head | ... | ... | ... | (tuberculosis) |
| 8 ox livers | ... | ... | ... | (parasites 3, tuberculosis 2, tumours 2, necrosis 1) |
| 1 ox heart | ... | ... | ... | (pericarditis) |

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 26lb. beef | 4½lb. kippers |
| 1 box tripe | 3 tins of pilchards |
| 212 rabbits | 2 tins of crayfish |
| 4 tins of corned beef | 1 tin of crab |
| 452 eggs | 9 tins of fruit |
| 172lb. sweets | 5 tins and one jar of jam |
| 214 tins condensed milk | 3lb. bacon and ham |
| 32 tins of tomatoes | 1½lb. brawn |
| 14 boxes of dates | 6lb. of self-raising flour |
| 12lb. of butter | 1½lb. cocoa |
| 18lb. cheese | 1 jar of meat paste |
| 23 tins of salmon | |

In the earlier part of the year vigilance had to be exercised in connection with tinned foods of doubtful quality, as there appeared to be a considerable trade being done in ex-war stores. In one instance 151 tins of condensed milk and five tins of jam, and in another case 10 tins of condensed milk were sormally seized. The offending tradesmen were severely cautioned by the Council, and informed that any future offence would result in police court proceedings.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

INSPECTIONS.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Primary inspections of premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 807 |
| House-to-house inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 97 |
| Caravans inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Re-inspections after service of notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1661 |
| Visits to work in progress | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2352 |
| Visits to factories and workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Visits to bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Visits to slaughter houses and food inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 567 |
| Visits to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 71 |
| Visits to offensive trades | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Visits to stables and mews | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1531 |
| Visits re infectious disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 223 |
| Miscellaneous visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | 539 |
| | | | | | 7966 |

DRAINAGE.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of houses re-drained | ... | ... | ... | ... | 112 |
| Number of houses partly re-drained | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Defective drains repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Drains unstopped and cleansed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 193 |
| New ventilated soilpipes fixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| New ventshafts fixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 77 |
| Soilpipes and ventshafts repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Privies abolished and replaced by w.c.'s | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| New w.c. apartments built | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| W.C.'s provided with new pans and traps | ... | ... | ... | ... | 186 |
| W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123 |
| W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| New cesspools dug | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Cesspools deepened | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Cesspools repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Old cesspools filled in | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| New sinks fixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 121 |
| Trapped sink waste pipes fixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 |
| Water tests applied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 282 |
| Smoke tests applied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 232 |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of houses closed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Number of houses demolished | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Water supply laid on in house | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Roofs repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 95 |
| Guttering or down pipes provided or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 |
| Damp walls remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 |
| Yards repaved | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| Yard paving repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Washhouse accommodation provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Additional light to rooms provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Defective walls and ceiling plaster repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 224 |
| Defective floors repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 115 |
| Defective windows repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 220 |
| Dirty walls and ceilings cleansed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 495 |
| Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Overcrowding abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Nuisances from manure and refuse abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Miscellaneous defects remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 210 |

Total number of defects remedied .. 2893

Number of rooms fumigated .. 159

OFFICE WORK.

| | |
|--|------|
| Letters received and dealt with | 1323 |
| Complaints received and dealt with | 376 |
| Letters written | 401 |
| Intimation notices served | 817 |
| Statutory notices served | 140 |
| Notices sent out re cesspools and privies | 518 |
| Notices sent to schools re infectious disease cases .. | 118 |
| Number of plans of new drainage drawn | 104 |
| Reports to Health Committee | 78 |

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

1. BAKEHOUSES.

There are fifteen on the Register, being the same number as in 1919.

They are systematically inspected twice a year and many other occasional visits are paid. Their general condition during the year calls for no comment.

2. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These number 133, or 12 less than in 1919. Twenty-two defects were discovered, of which 16 have been remedied. Owing to the pressure of other work, the inspections have not been as complete in 1920 as in previous years. A new and up-to-date register of the Factories and Workshops of the District has been begun and will, if possible, be finished during the current year.

3. HOMEWORK.

As far as known, homework is carried on in 19 premises.

Owing again to pressure of other work, only two premises were inspected during the year. No case of infectious disease was reported.

4. LODGING HOUSES.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the District. Both are systematically inspected and call for no comment.

5. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

a. FRIED FISH SHOPS.—There are ten in the District. The premises have been inspected from time to time and are satisfactory.

b. FAT MELTER.—There is one in the District. The premises have been inspected from time to time and the method of storage of crude fat, previously commented on, is now satisfactory.

6. COW SHEDS.

There are five on the Register, which is the same number as in 1919. All are frequently inspected, and it is perhaps possible to say that there is some improvement in the matter of cleanliness of the cow sheds and in the grooming of cows. In other respects the milk produced is still liable to much contamination by the time it reaches the consumer.

This matter was fully discussed in the 1919 Report, and it remains to say that new legislation as to the production of clean milk is overdue.

Mr. Ebbetts undertakes regular veterinary inspection of the cows and presents quarterly reports. During the year Mr. Ebbetts has found the cows generally healthy and has not considered it necessary to apply the Tuberculosis Test to any animal. He considers the cows are, on the whole, kept in a more cleanly condition than during the previous two or three years.

7. MILK SHOPS.

There are seventeen on the Register, the same number as in 1919. All are periodically inspected and are generally satisfactory in the matter of cleansing their vessels and in keeping them covered.

8. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The following Table shews the number of slaughter houses in the District :—

| | In 1914. | In January, 1920. | In December, 1920. |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Registered.. .. . | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Licensed | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 6 | 7 | 7 |

These slaughter houses have been systematically inspected during the year, and many additional visits have been paid at other times and at time of slaughtering. Their condition cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory, as one or two of the premises are extremely old and dilapidated, and others are not kept as clean and well cared for as they might be. As many visits are paid at the time of slaughtering as is possible, but the pressure of other work has made a complete supervision impossible.

There is no public abattoir in the District, nor is it at present practicable to embark on such an undertaking.

A further account of Slaughter Houses and of Unsound Food appears in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, attached to this Report.

9. OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

As in previous years, all stable manure has been required to be removed at intervals of not more than one week, from April to October. This work has been specially supervised and is carried out satisfactorily, with the result that the nuisance of domestic flies is greatly diminished. "Fly Posters" were also issued in the spring.

The regular removal of offal from fish and fried fish shops is undertaken by the Corporation, apart from the removal of ordinary household refuse, and a small fee is charged for this.

Attention was drawn in last year's Report to the keeping of rabbits, fowls and ducks in the yards of many dwellings, and it was pointed out that this practice did not make for clean sanitary surroundings and contributed to the prevalence of rats. These conditions are in no way less than reported last year.

10. SCHOOLS.

The administration with regard to elementary schools, from a sanitary and health point of view, has frequently been the subject of Report. The water supply for all the schools is ample and of good quality. With few exceptions the closets are of the old fashioned trough type. Care, however, is taken to see that these are properly flushed and they do not give rise to much nuisance. Some of the schools are very old buildings, but the caretakers, as a rule, under the supervision of the head teachers, maintain a fair degree of cleanliness.

It was not necessary to close any school or department of a school by reason of the prevalence of infectious disease during the year.

The Health Department is advised by the teachers of the occurrence of any Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease which comes under their notice. In this way, during the year, the Department received information of 97 cases of Mumps, 297 of Measles, 20 of Chicken Pox and 5 of Whooping Cough.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There has been no shortage of cow's milk during the year, about half of which comes from the West of England. As regards purity, no definite measure has been taken to ascertain the presence or otherwise of the Tubercle Bacillus, or to estimate the bacillary content of any samples. The naked eye is usually sufficient to satisfy any observer that clean milk is a very rare article, in this District at all events. Some of the milk sellers pasteurize their milk and some milk is sold in closed bottles, but not nearly as much as is desirable. As stated in another part of the Report, the whole position of the purity of the Milk Supply needs revision and further legislation.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

Dried milk, which is in many respects a far safer food than fresh cow's milk, and less liable to contamination, particularly in the people's houses, has been issued to prospective and nursing mothers, to infants under one year and to children under 5 years. This milk is issued at or under cost price, or free of charge, just as circumstances appear to demand. Careful enquiry is made as to the means of those applying and each is required to sign a printed form. The system is no doubt open to fraud which, without an elaborate organisation, it is difficult to detect, and in any case it is not thought to be considerable. As was remarked in last year's Report, it is far better to incur a small amount of loss by misrepresentation than that any bona fide cases should go without a sufficient supply of this excellent food.

At the time of writing, this provision of Dried Milk is costing the Corporation about £7 10s. a week, the same amount as last year. It is money well spent, and beyond doubt economic in the long view, since it goes to rear a race of robust children, with their ultimate powers of energy and resistance to disease, instead of individuals undergrown, underfed, the victims of every breath of infection or disease which they may encounter. Some prominence is given to this matter as an acute and, in most respects, a justifiable wave of economy has set in, and it is just as well to recognise what is true economy and what is a parsimony bound to defeat its own ends.

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS.

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year.

OTHER FOODS.

- a. Unsound Food and Food Inspection.
- b. Sanitary Condition of Premises.
- c. Inspection of Meat at Time of Slaughtering.
- d. Action Taken.
- e. Condemnation for Tuberculosis.

All these matters have been dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 7.

9. PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

As previously stated, however much it may be desirable to establish a Public Abattoir, the undertaking is not, at the present time, practicable.

FOOD POISONING.

No case arose during the year.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Analyses performed under the Acts during the year :—

| Article. | Number. | Genuine. | Adulterated. |
|----------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| Milk | 47 | 36 | 11 |
| Lard.. .. | 9 | 9 | — |
| Ice Cream .. | 6 | 6 | — |
| Margarine .. | 5 | 5 | — |
| Vinegar | 3 | 3 | — |
| Butter | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cheese | 1 | 1 | — |
| “ Vino ” | 1 | 1 | — |

Percentage of adulteration, 15.05.

The percentage in 1919 was 9.59 and the average over the preceding 10 years is 14.1.

Forty-seven samples of milk were analysed, and the percentage of adulteration was 23.4. It was 13.2 in 1919, 28.3 in 1918, and 23.8 in 1917.

The figure shews some retrogression from that of 1919, but the degree of adulteration was in no case very high ; there was nothing to compare with the notorious case of 1919 when one sample shewed 66.8 per cent. of added water.

It is worthy of record that no article shewed any trace of preservative except the Margarines, all of which contained a small quantity of Boric Acid.

PROSECUTIONS.

There was one prosecution during the year, for 12.8 per cent. of added water. The offender was fined £5, including costs.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles having been removed from the list, twenty-three diseases were notifiable in 1920. They will be considered seriatim below. Information as to non-notifiable infectious diseases, which are Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough and Mumps, is gathered from the School Teachers, who are required to send a daily return to the Health Office of all such cases as come to their knowledge ; from the School Attendance Officer ; from the School Nurse and from the Health Visitors. Exclusion from school and Sunday school of actual cases and of contacts is carried out on the lines usually accepted and previously reported.

The local Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever and Small Pox. Undoubtedly “ return ” cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occasionally occur, but they have been extremely few during the year and it is not always possible to be satisfied that the new infection has been carried by an outgoing patient and not arisen from other circumstances.

There are no facilities in the District for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

With regard to the notification of Tuberculosis, the facts that there were 33 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 27 notifications in 1919, and 22 deaths and 16 notifications in 1920, go to shew that the requirements as to notification of Tuberculosis are not properly observed by the local medical practitioners and it is proposed to issue a circular letter reminding these gentlemen of their statutory duties.

GENERAL PREVALENCE.

The year has been again very free from Infectious Disease, although the figures for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are higher than in 1919. Table II. on page 21 shews an analysis of all the notifications.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

DEATHS.

| | Small Pox | Measles | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Whooping Cough | Enteric Fever | Diarrhœa | Total | Death Rate per 1,000 |
|------|-----------|---------|---------------|------------|----------------|---------------|----------|-------|----------------------|
| 1911 | 0 | 34 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 38 | 86 | 2.7 |
| 1912 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 3 | 28 | .88 |
| 1913 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 17 | .53 |
| 1914 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 31 | .98 |
| 1915 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 33 | 1.03 |
| 1916 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 21 | .69 |
| 1917 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 11 | .38 |
| 1918 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 19 | .67 |
| 1919 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 12 | .37 |
| 1920 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 16 | .47 |

The average Zymotic Death Rate for the preceding 10 years is .9.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

The following notifications were received during the year :—

| | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Erysipelas | Enteric Fever | Puerperal Fever | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Other Tuberculosis | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Pneumonia | Malaria | Total |
|--------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| North | 12 | 21 | 1 | 2 | — | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 52 |
| South | 48 | 36 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 122 |
| Totals | 60 | 57 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 174 |

This Table includes three cases of Diphtheria and one of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, notified from St. Bartholomew's Hospital and not belonging to the District. These four cases are excluded from Table II. on page 21.

Notifications of military cases are not included in the above Table and were as follows :—

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----------|-----|------------|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | 2 | Pneumonia | ... | 1 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | 19 | Malaria | ... | 15 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 10 | Dysentery | ... | 1 |
| | | | | | — | Total, 48. |

In 1919 the total was 253 and in 1918, 382.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES CONSIDERED SERIATIM.

Encephalitis Lethargica, Acute Polio Myelitis, Acute Polio-Encephalitis, Continued Fever, Cholera, Small Pox, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Trench Fever, Relapsing Fever, Plague, Typhus Fever, Para Typhoid Fever, Dysentery.

No case of any of these diseases was notified during the year except one of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, which was subsequently withdrawn. The case was sent to St. William's Hospital and found to be Tubercular Meningitis.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case was notified from the South side of the River. This case died.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Six cases were notified, two from the North and four from the South side. The following Table shews the number of notifications year by year :—

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 1914 (from April 1st) | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| 1915 | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| 1916 | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| 1917 | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| 1918 | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| 1919 | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| 1920 | .. | .. | .. | 6 |

Of the six cases notified in 1920, four were affected in both eyes, one in one eye, and in one case no information was available. In the case of one infant the sight of an eye was lost and another of the cases died from other causes. Three of the six cases were under medical care in their own homes, and the other three were treated at the Hospital.

SCARLET FEVER.

Sixty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and there was no death ; fifty of these cases were removed to Hospital.

The following Table shews the number of cases and removals to Hospital in the last 10 years :—

| | Cases | Removals | |
|------|--------|----------|-------------------|
| 1911 | .. 125 | .. 112 | or 82.9 per cent. |
| 1912 | .. 230 | .. 175 | or 76 „ |
| 1913 | .. 63 | .. 46 | or 73 „ |
| 1914 | .. 138 | .. 102 | or 73.9 „ |
| 1915 | .. 74 | .. 56 | or 75.6 „ |
| 1916 | .. 45 | .. 38 | or 84.4 „ |
| 1917 | .. 36 | .. 33 | or 91.6 „ |
| 1918 | .. 46 | .. 38 | or 82.6 „ |
| 1919 | .. 28 | .. 23 | or 82.1 „ |
| 1920 | .. 60 | .. 50 | or 83.3 „ |

Of the sixty cases notified in 1920, 48 were from the South and 12 from the North side of the River.

MEASLES.

Measles ceased to be notifiable on January 1st, 1920, and information as to this and other non-notifiable infectious diseases is obtained in the manner described on page 11. During the year there was no considerable outbreak of Measles, but four deaths were registered.

The following Table shews the number of deaths in the past ten years :—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|----|------|-----|----|
| 1911 | ... | 34 | 1916 | ... | 0 |
| 1912 | ... | 0 | 1917 | ... | 1 |
| 1913 | ... | 1 | 1918 | ... | 10 |
| 1914 | ... | 4 | 1919 | ... | 1 |
| 1915 | ... | 11 | 1920 | ... | 4 |

WHOOPIING COUGH.

There was one death from Whooping Cough.

The following Table shews the number of deaths in the past ten years :—

| | | | | | |
|------|----|----|------|----|---|
| 1911 | .. | 4 | 1916 | .. | 6 |
| 1912 | .. | 6 | 1917 | .. | 0 |
| 1913 | .. | 2 | 1918 | .. | 4 |
| 1914 | .. | 3 | 1919 | .. | 1 |
| 1915 | .. | 11 | 1920 | .. | 1 |

DIPHtheria AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Fifty-seven cases were notified and thirty-seven were removed to Hospital. There were six deaths.

In these numbers are included three cases notified from St. Bartholomew's Hospital and not belonging to the District.

The following Table shews the number of cases and removals to Hospital in the last ten years :—

| | | Cases | | Removals | | |
|------|----|-------|----|----------|----|----------------|
| 1911 | .. | 144 | .. | 109 | or | 75.6 per cent. |
| 1912 | .. | 176 | .. | 98 | or | 55.6 „ |
| 1913 | .. | 55 | .. | 40 | or | 72.7 „ |
| 1914 | .. | 112 | .. | 62 | or | 55.3 „ |
| 1915 | .. | 70 | .. | 44 | or | 62.8 „ |
| 1916 | .. | 78 | .. | 48 | or | 61.5 „ |
| 1917 | .. | 40 | .. | 25 | or | 62.5 „ |
| 1918 | .. | 31 | .. | 29 | or | 93.5 „ |
| 1919 | .. | 26 | .. | 20 | or | 76.9 „ |
| 1920 | .. | 57 | .. | 37 | or | 64.9 „ |

Of the 57 cases notified in 1920, 36 were from the South and 21 from the North side of the River.

Fifty-seven bacteriological examinations were made during the year, with 14 positive and 43 negative results.

TABLE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

| | | Positive | Negative | Total | No of cases Notified |
|------|----|----------|----------|-------|----------------------|
| 1911 | .. | 42 | 38 | 80 | 144 |
| 1912 | .. | 64 | 60 | 124 | 176 |
| 1913 | .. | 11 | 33 | 44 | 55 |
| 1914 | .. | 49 | 48 | 97 | 112 |
| 1915 | .. | 28 | 57 | 85 | 70 |
| 1916 | .. | 34 | 38 | 72 | 78 |
| 1917 | .. | 15 | 18 | 33 | 40 |
| 1918 | .. | 9 | 11 | 20 | 31 |
| 1919 | .. | 2 | 14 | 16 | 26 |
| 1920 | .. | 14 | 43 | 57 | 57 |

The foregoing Tables shew an increase in Diphtheria over the preceding three years. The type of the disease as seen in St. William's Hospital was again of low virulence, the case mortality being 5 per cent. A greater proportion than usual of the cases, however, was laryngeal and the operation of Tracheotomy was sometimes necessary. Anti-Diphtheritic Serum, which is the most effective of all remedies for Diphtheria, is even not yet used as promptly and in as sufficiently large doses as is desirable, and this results occasionally in death, and very frequently in protracted illness. The local Medical Practitioners are less to blame in this matter, although not entirely beyond criticism, than are parents who persistently postpone sending for a doctor until the disease has obtained a footing from which it is difficult to be dislodged.

The Serum is issued free of cost and is obtainable at all times, day and night. During the year 31 applications were made for the Serum and 268,000 units were issued, at a cost to the Corporation of £18 17s. 9d.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

Three cases were notified and two were removed to Hospital. There was no death.

The following Table shews the number of cases notified and the removals to Hospital in the last ten years :—

| | | Cases. | | Removals. | | |
|------|----|--------|----|-----------|----|------------------------------|
| 1911 | .. | 13 | .. | 7 | or | 59.3 per cent. |
| 1912 | .. | 85 | .. | 77 | or | 90.5 „ (The Strood Outbreak) |
| 1913 | .. | 16 | .. | 15 | or | 93.7 „ |
| 1914 | .. | 11 | .. | 10 | or | 90.9 „ |
| 1915 | .. | 3 | .. | 3 | or | 100 „ |
| 1916 | .. | 18 | .. | 8 | or | 44.4 „ |
| 1917 | .. | 3 | .. | 0 | | |
| 1918 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | or | 50 „ |
| 1919 | .. | 3 | .. | 1 | or | 33.3 „ |
| 1920 | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | or | 66.6 „ |

Of the three cases notified in 1920, one was attributed to the consumption of infected shell fish obtained outside the District, in one case no source could be assigned, and the third case was probably, almost certainly, not Enteric Fever.

During the year three suspected cases were bacteriologically examined, with one positive and two negative results.

TABLE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

| | | | Positive. | | Negative. | | Total. | | No. of cases Notified. |
|------|----|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|--------|----|------------------------|
| 1911 | .. | .. | 9 | .. | 10 | .. | 19 | .. | 13 |
| 1912 | .. | .. | 70 | .. | 54 | .. | 124 | .. | 85 |
| 1913 | .. | .. | 15 | .. | 10 | .. | 25 | .. | 16 |
| 1914 | .. | .. | 7 | .. | 7 | .. | 14 | .. | 11 |
| 1915 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 5 | .. | 8 | .. | 3 |
| 1916 | .. | .. | 14 | .. | 6 | .. | 20 | .. | 18 |
| 1917 | .. | .. | 0 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 3 |
| 1918 | .. | .. | 0 | .. | 6 | .. | 6 | .. | 2 |
| 1919 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 3 |
| 1920 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 3 |

INFLUENZA.

This is not a notifiable disease and there has been no outbreak during the year. Eight deaths from Influenza were registered, which is about the normal number attributed to Influenza of a non-epidemic type.

PNEUMONIA.

Pneumonia has been notifiable throughout the year.

Twelve cases only were notified as against 73 in 1919 (10 months). There were thirty-five deaths. To explain this discrepancy it should be stated that only Acute Primary Pneumonia and Pneumonia arising as a complication of Influenza are notifiable. No doubt many of the cases arose as a fatal complication of other diseases and were given as the cause of death.

PULMONARY AND OTHER TUBERCULOSIS.

Seventeen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and seven cases of Tuberculosis of other parts of the body were notified during the year. The deaths were respectively 22 and 8. One of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which was notified did not belong to the District, and although it appears in the following Table for purposes of comparison with former years, it will not be further regarded nor is it included in Table II., which is a summary of all cases of infectious disease notified in, and belonging to, the District in 1920.

The following are the figures for the last ten years :—

| | Notifications | | | | | | | | Deaths | | |
|------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|-------------|------|------|------|------------------|--|--|
| | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | | | | | | | | (Pulmonary only) | | |
| | Voluntary | Poor Law | Hospital | Compulsory | Other Forms | | | | | | |
| 1911 | .. 23 | .. 22 | .. 27 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 34 | | |
| 1912 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 122 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 35 | | |
| 1913 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 62 | .. 33 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 29 | | |
| 1914 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 59 | .. 5 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 23 | | |
| 1915 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 42 | .. 14 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 36 | | |
| 1916 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 55 | .. 20 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 31 | | |
| 1917 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 50 | .. 46 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 28 | | |
| 1918 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 53 | .. 58 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 40 | | |
| 1919 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 28 | .. 85 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 33 | | |
| 1920 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 17 | .. 7 | .. — | .. — | .. — | .. 22 | | |

There were 8 deaths from Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary. The seven cases notified of other forms of Tuberculosis were made up as follows :—

Meninges, 4 ; Glands, 2 ; Skin, 1.

Of the 16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis belonging to the District, 4 were notified from the North, and 12 from the South side of the River.

Bacteriological examination of the sputa of suspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shews the following results for the last nine years, or since notification became compulsory.

| | Positive | Negative | Total | No. of cases Notified. |
|------|----------|----------|-------|------------------------|
| 1912 | .. 5 | .. 29 | 34 | 122 |
| 1913 | .. 15 | .. 26 | 41 | 62 |
| 1914 | .. 20 | .. 46 | 66 | 59 |
| 1915 | .. 29 | .. 60 | 89 | 42 |
| 1916 | .. 25 | .. 64 | 89 | 55 |
| 1917 | .. 23 | .. 49 | 72 | 50 |
| 1918 | .. 13 | .. 38 | 51 | 53 |
| 1919 | .. 16 | .. 65 | 81 | 28 |
| 1920 | .. 14 | .. 43 | 57 | 17 |

The diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis lie principally in the hands of the County Tuberculosis Officer for the District, who works in collaboration with the local doctors. The Health Department disinfects premises after death or removal, and issues disinfectants to such cases as require it. The Department also endeavours to improve the sanitary condition of premises in which this disease is found. In spite of all efforts up to the present time in various directions, such as Sanatoria, Dispensaries and Tuberculosis Officers, Phthisis continues to destroy large numbers of the people, and will continue to do so until all slums and slumlike dwellings are abolished and every house can get a plentiful supply of fresh air both in and around it.

There were 22 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 16 notifications. It is presumable, therefore, that all cases are not notified and, as stated in an earlier part of the Report, it is time to remind the local doctors of their duties in this respect.

The following information has been supplied by Dr. Gaffikin, the County Tuberculosis Officer :—

| | 1920 | 1919 | 1918 | 1917 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of new patients from Rochester | 74 | 99 | 96 | 102 |

The diagnosis of the 74 patients was as follows :—

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | .. 39 | Apparently Healthy | .. 11 |
| Surgical Tuberculosis | .. 8 | For Observation | .. 7 |
| Other Diseases | .. 6 | Bronchitis | .. 3 |
| | | | 74 |

MALARIA.

Four cases only were notified, none of which were contracted in this country. There was no death.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Clinic for the treatment of Venereal Disease continues to be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and I am informed by Dr. Cotman, who controls the Clinic, that the work steadily increases. Special arrangements for treating early cases of Gonnorrhœa are now in force and Dr. Cotman urges all cases to lose no time in going to the Clinic. He regrets that he finds many still go to chemists for treatment, despite the law.

The following are the figures for all Venereal Disease for Rochester since the Clinic began operations :—

| Year. | New Cases. | | | | | | Attendances |
|-------|------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1917 | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | ... | — |
| 1918 | ... | ... | ... | 31 | ... | ... | 118 |
| 1919 | ... | ... | ... | 87 | ... | ... | 175 |
| 1920 | ... | ... | ... | 72 | ... | ... | 278 |

The number of attendances for each case shews a considerable advance, and this is satisfactory, since patients usually display a great disposition to discontinue treatment when there is an improvement but not yet a cure.

It will be seen that the number of new cases is less than in 1919, but no reliable deduction can be made from this.

The facilities for treatment offered by the Clinic are freely made known in the District both by advertisement in the local press and by posters displayed in suitable places.

CANCER.

Thirty-five deaths from Cancer were registered. There were 34 in 1919, and the average for the last ten years is 32.7.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The control and inspection of Midwives is entirely in the hands of the County Authorities, who took it over from the Local Authority some years ago.

In view of this, the Health Department does nothing in this connection except to immediately advise the County Medical Officer of Health of any exceptional occurrences, such as Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Puerperal Fever.

INFANT MORTALITY AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was 67.2 or .8 more than in 1919. The same rate for England and Wales as a whole was 80, and for the 148 smaller towns also 80. The average rate for Rochester for the past ten years is 81.5.

The present rate is again very satisfactory, particularly when the increased number of births is taken into account, since a higher Infant Mortality Rate nearly always accompanies a rising Birth Rate.

Table IV., which follows later in the Report, gives particulars of 52 out of 54 deaths of infants under the age of one year, and shows that 25, or nearly one half, just as in 1919 and 1918, died of conditions established at the time of, or before birth. This demonstrates the necessity of caring for the mother during the latter months of her pregnancy and of seeing that proper provision is made for her at the time of her confinement.

Of the remaining 27 deaths, diseases of the Respiratory System accounted for no fewer than 14, a high figure and one unquestionably capable of reduction. It is again satisfactory to note that out of 803 births only 4 infants died of diseases of the Digestive System. While making allowance for climatic conditions during the year being unfavourable to the spread of Epidemic Diarrhœa, generally so fatal to infants, much credit must be given to the Health Visitors for this result. The right kind, the right quantity, the right method of preparation and of securing cleanliness of food are the things which go further than anything else to keep an infant alive and healthy. It is the Health Visitors' business to see that the mothers are properly instructed in these matters, and judging from the figures, it would appear that they have carried out their duties with conspicuous success.

With regard to the provision of food by the Corporation, definite information is given under the heading of "Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918," on page 10.

The question of establishing a Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre was fully discussed in last year's Report, where, *inter alia*, it was written that the Corporation had stated their intention of founding such a Centre, and only awaited the finding of suitable premises. These premises have not yet been found, and having regard to the figures both of 1919 and 1920, it does not appear that the lack of a Centre is exercising any very prejudicial effect on Infant Vitality, or in other words, that the very complete organisation, apart from an actual Centre, at present operating in the District, is producing results which compare favourably with other Districts, many of which have Centres.

The following Report has been prepared by Nurse Tod and Nurse Hinde, the two Health Visitors in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare :—

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

During the year 789 births were registered in the District, and 717 were notified under the Act. This is 90.8 per cent., as against an average of 84.8 for the preceding ten years. Nineteen still births were notified. The notifications were made up as follows :—

| Doctors. | Midwives. | Parents. |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 216 | 488 | 13 |

Seven hundred and sixty infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 6,259 visits, or an average of 8.2 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the Infants visited :—

INFANTS VISITED DURING 1920.

Total number, 760.

| Kind of feeding :— | | | | Totals | Percentage |
|------------------------|----|----|----|--------|------------|
| 1. Entirely breast fed | .. | .. | .. | 480 | 63.1 |
| 2. Hand and breast fed | .. | .. | .. | 88 | 11.5 |
| 3. Entirely hand fed | .. | .. | .. | 191 | 25.1 |
| 4. Unclassified | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .1 |

Kind of food (when hand fed) :—

| | | | | |
|--|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1. Fresh cow's milk and water | .. | 28 | .. | 3.6 |
| 2. Dried milk (Glaxo, Cow and Gate Food) | 142 | .. | 18.6 | |
| 3. Patent Foods | .. | .. | 40 | 5.2 |
| 4. Condensed Milk | .. | .. | 42 | 5.5 |
| 5. Biscuits, oatmeal, etc. | .. | .. | 27 | 3.5 |

Mode of feeding :—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|
| 1. Boat-shaped bottle | .. | .. | .. | 245 | .. | 32.2 |
| 2. Long tube bottle | .. | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .6 |
| 3. Spoon | .. | .. | .. | 29 | .. | 3.8 |

Condition of house :—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1. House clean | ... | ... | ... | 649 | ... | 85.3 |
| 2. House fairly clean | ... | ... | ... | 84 | ... | 11.0 |
| 3. House dirty | ... | ... | ... | 25 | ... | 3.2 |
| 4. House very dirty | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | .2 |

Overcrowded houses :—

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--|
| More than two persons per bedroom, | | | | | | |
| number of houses | ... | ... | 365 | ... | 48.0 | |

All infants reckoned breast-fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

There were eight pairs of twins.

Eighty-five cases, not notified under the Act, were visited and are included in the above figures.

Of the 752 mothers visited, 15 were engaged in work outside their homes until within a short period of their confinement.

In three instances only the Nurses could not gain admission.

During the year 29 infants who had been visited by the Nurses died. The following Table gives some particulars of these deaths :—

| No. | Age. | Cause of Death. | Method of Feeding. | Remarks. |
|-----|----------|--|---------------------|---|
| 1. | 26 days | Acute Bronchitis | Breast | House small, stuffy. |
| 2. | 1 month | Acute Bronchitis | Breast | Ill 2 days |
| 3. | 3 months | Atelectasis and Bronchitis | Bottle, boat-shaped | Paralysis of arms and legs from birth. |
| 4. | 1 month | Acute Bronchitis | Breast | No woollen clothing. |
| 5. | 1 month | Broncho-Pneumonia | Bottle, boat-shaped | House stuffy, no windows open. |
| 6. | 3 months | 1. Broncho-Pneumonia 2. Convulsions | Bottle, boat-shaped | House stuffy. All windows and doors shut. |
| 7. | 2 months | Acute Bronchitis | Breast | — |
| 8. | 7 weeks | 1. Broncho-Pneumonia 2. Convulsions. | Breast | No woollen clothing. |
| 9. | 12 days | Congenital Heart Disease | Breast | All children die. |
| 10. | 1 month | 1. Convulsions 2. Acute Dermatitis | Bottle, boat-shaped | No woollen clothing. |
| 11. | 1 month | Cerebral Abscess | Breast | All babies die soon after birth. Delicate mother. |
| 12. | 2 months | Cleft Palate and Marasmus | | In Hospital 2 months. Operation case. |
| 13. | 2 months | 1. Gastro Enteritis 2. Marasmus | Breast and bottle | Ill from birth. Born with right eye blind. |
| 14. | 14 days | 1. Congenital Syphilis 2. Marasmus | Breast | Mother syphilitic. All babies die. |
| 15. | 3 months | Broncho-Pneumonia | Bottle, boat-shaped | Delicate baby. |
| 16. | 2 months | Prematurity and Marasmus | Bottle, boat-shaped | Delicate from birth. |
| 17. | 3 months | Tubercular abscess of hip | Bottle, boat-shaped | Ill 2 months. |
| 18. | 2 months | Broncho-Pneumonia | Breast | Poor clothing, Careless mother. Dirty house. |
| 19. | 8 months | Broncho-Pneumonia | Breast | House fairly clean. |
| 20. | 7 days | Prematurity, Cleft Palate, Malnutrition | Breast | — |
| 21. | 26 days | 1. Premature Birth 2. Acute Peritonitis | Bottle, boat-shaped | — |
| 22. | 9 months | Broncho-Pneumonia | Breast | Pneumonia following measles. |

| No. | Age. | Cause of Death. | Method of Feeding. | Remarks. |
|-----|----------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 23. | 4 months | 1. Infective Enteritis 2. Bronchitis | Bottle, boat-shaped | Illegitimate. Well cared for. |
| 24. | 4 months | Epidemic Enteritis | Bottle, boat-shaped | House fairly clean. |
| 25. | 7 months | Epidemic Enteritis | Breast and bottle | Delicate from birth. |
| 26. | 11 days | Broncho-Pneumonia | Breast | Twin ; delicate from birth. |
| 27. | 17 days | 1. Prematurity 2. Poor circulation. | Bottle, boat-shaped | Delicate from birth. |
| 28. | 2 weeks | Eczema | Breast | Ill from birth. |
| 29. | 3 months | Probably Epileptic | Breast and bottle | Bad family history. |

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were fifty-four deaths of infants under one year of age ; this gives a mortality per thousand births of 67.2.

During the year 789 births were registered in the District, and of these 760 have been visited. The first visit takes place between the end of the first and second week, after the doctor or midwife has ceased attending.

The mother is urged to breast-feed her baby, and when this is impossible advice is given as to the best methods of using dried milk for good results.

In addition to the personal advice given at each house, the leaflet " Hints on Feeding " is left, so that the mother can have something for reference between the nurse's visits.

On an average eight visits were paid to each baby during the first year, and in many cases these visits were welcomed by the mothers ; especially was this so in cases of Epidemic Diarrhœa, when the Nurse was able to render valuable nursing assistance.

During the year it was found that many of the mothers, especially those with large families, were working under the greatest difficulty in the matter of maintaining conditions favourable to infant welfare, owing to the high cost of necessaries and unsuitable housing.

Following on the advice given a great improvement is made in the clothing of infants, and many mothers now use knitted vests for their infants instead of the undesirable cotton shirts and stiff binders.

Ante-natal visits to the number of 146 have been paid, and hygienic advice given, and when thought necessary, medical aid advised.

Visits to the number of 2,023 have been paid to children between the ages of one year and 5 years. This averages only one visit per year, but owing to the increased amount of work in connection with the younger infants it has been impossible to do more. In a few cases frequent visiting has proved necessary, but the condition of the children is on the whole good.

Hospital tickets for the out-patient department are given for mothers and children who cannot afford a doctor, and are unable to obtain such tickets through other channels.

Dried Milk has again been supplied to babies, children, nursing and expectant mothers at cost price, and in necessitous cases free of cost or at a reduced rate. This has in some cases resulted in a marked improvement in health in babies and children, and has proved of value in enabling under-nourished mothers to continue breast-feeding.

With regard to the work as a whole, it is pleasing to be able to report that there has been a noticeable change in the attitude of mothers towards the nurses in their visits. There is less tendency to regard the visits as officious and inquisitive, and, while the obstacles to good work experienced in past years have not entirely disappeared, there is a growing inclination on the part of the mothers to regard the nurses as real helpful advisers.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1913.

| | Totals. |
|--|---------|
| Notified Births Visited | 760 |
| " " Re-visited | 5499 |
| " Infants' Deaths enquired into | 37 |
| " Infectious Diseases | 9 |
| Ante-Natal Visits | 146 |
| Children visited over one year of age | 2023 |
| Miscellaneous | 142 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 8616 |
| Demonstrations given to mothers | 2 |
| Nursing help given to cases of Epidemic Diarrhœa | 13 |
| Nuisances reported to the Medical Officer | 108 |
| Dirty houses reported to the Medical Officer | 35 |
| Neglected homes reported to the Inspector of Cruelty to Children | 1 |

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

Three suspected cases of Swine Fever were reported to the Board of Agriculture.
Two persons were prosecuted for removing pigs without a licence.
One person was prosecuted for infringing the sheep dipping regulations.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

No examination under this Act took place during the year.

LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1920.

| Month | Total Depth Inches | Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours Inches | Date | Number of Days with .01 or more recorded |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|------|--|
| January ... | 2.62 | .54 | 29 | 14 |
| February ... | .50 | .31 | 20 | 6 |
| March ... | .65 | .25 | 14 | 11 |
| April ... | 2.78 | .35 | 22 | 22 |
| May ... | .45 | .11 | 6 | 8 |
| June ... | 1.52 | .44 | 20 | 7 |
| July ... | 3.10 | .87 | 21 | 15 |
| August ... | 1.43 | 1.06 | 18 | 4 |
| September... | 4.19 | .84 | 21 | 14 |
| October ... | .77 | .26 | 31 | 7 |
| November ... | .81 | .23 | 13 | 8 |
| December ... | 2.15 | .32 | 23 | 24 |
| | 21.00 | | | 140 |

There were 26 rain days less and 3.65 inches less rain than in 1919.

The average yearly rainfall for the preceding ten years is 24.8 inches.

RATS.

The arrangements for dealing with Rats are the same as described in the Report for 1919, except that the Rat Clerk now only attends one day a week instead of two as previously. It was found that the apathy of the general public enabled this reduction to be made. It is a matter for regret that the people do not shew more anxiety to get rid of the vermin, which continue to infest many houses and buildings in large numbers. A great many citizens seem to prefer harbouring rats to going to a little trouble to get rid of them. Nevertheless, a good deal of effective work has been done during the year, as the following figures demonstrate :—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of applications for poisons, use of traps, &c. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 88 |
| Number of Rats actually killed or found dead by the Rat Catcher | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4390 |
| Number of baits laid by Rat Catcher | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6012 |
| Number of baits represented by sales to citizens | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7300 |

The Rat Catcher principally operates with a smoke machine and dogs. Many rats have also been caught in traps of which the “Nipper” has been the most effective. The Varnish trap became too expensive for use. Barium Carbonate, formerly greatly relied on as a poison, has been rather disappointing; Squills has not been used, as the technique of its preparation is more than the general public can be induced to employ. These two poisons are, to all intents and purposes, non-lethal to domestic animals and fowls, and therefore have been strongly recommended by the Board of Agriculture for general use. Their toxic qualities are not to be compared with those having a Phosphorus, Strychnine or Arsenic basis, but the disadvantages and dangers of the latter poisons are obvious, and they could not be issued by responsible public officials except under the strictest safeguards and on receipt of a signed undertaking on the part of the person to whom they were issued, to accept all risks. Whatever poisons or traps are used, the rat population cannot be greatly reduced until the people take a live interest in the matter, and see that their premises are rat proof and that quantities of food are not carelessly left lying about. It is certain that where there is no food there will be no rats.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

The staff consists of :—

1. The Medical Officer of Health, who is also Port Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of St. William's Hospital for Infectious Diseases, which is a joint Hospital for Rochester and Chatham.
2. Chief Sanitary Inspector.
3. Two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.
4. Lady Clerk.
5. Two qualified Health Visitors.

No assistance is given by any Voluntary Organisation in the District.

The staff is very fully employed, and in fact, a good deal of work is constantly in arrear. This is largely a legacy from the difficult conditions obtaining during the war. But apart from this, the advances of Sanitary Science, the persistent requirements of the Ministry of Health and the natural demands of a population now happily better educated in Domestic Hygiene, render it impossible to carry on a Health Department efficiently without an adequate skilled staff. Unless such a staff is maintained and encouraged in its efforts much of the good work of past years will be thrown away and a general deterioration of the District will follow.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

This was fully set forth in the 1919 Report and has undergone no change. During the year the accommodation for cases of Diphtheria was somewhat strained, but usually there are sufficient beds for all diseases dealt with, and it is out of the question that permanent provision should be made of sufficient capacity for dealing with rarely occurring epidemics.

LOCAL ACTS AND ORDERS.

The following Acts have been adopted in the District :—

- Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

All work under this heading is undertaken at the County Laboratory at Maidstone, with the single exception of a quarterly chemical and bacteriological examination of Strood Water, made by Dr. Spitta, St. George's Hospital, London.

The various results appear in other parts of the Report.

ST. WILLIAM'S ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Four hundred and one cases were admitted during the year. The average for the preceding 10 years is 272.

ROCHESTER.

| Age | Scarlet Fever | Typhoid Fever | Diphtheria | Total | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------|----------------------|
| Under Five .. | 9 | 0 | 9 | 18 | Total from Rochester |
| Five and Upwards .. | 41 | 2 | 28 | 71 | 89 |

CHATHAM.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|---|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Under Five .. | 16 | 0 | 28 | 44 | Total from Chatham |
| Five and Upwards .. | 69 | 6 | 163 | 238 | 282 |

FROM NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| Under Five .. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Total Neighbouring |
| Five and Upwards .. | 2 | 0 | 27 | 29 | 29 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 137 | 8 | 255 | 400 | |

In addition to the above, one case was sent in from Rochester, said to be Cerebro-Spinal Fever. The case, however, was one of Tubercular Meningitis, and died.

Five cases were found to be wrongly diagnosed.

Bacteriological examination of patients in the Hospital, for purposes of diagnosis, and before discharge, are made whenever it seems desirable.

The mortality was as follows :—

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | There was no death. |
| Typhoid Fever | There was no death. |
| Diphtheria | 5 per cent. |

Cases considered wrongly diagnosed are not included in the above.

Average number of days detained in Hospital :—

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Scarlet Fever | 50.7 |
| Typhoid Fever | 36 |
| Diphtheria | 27 |

Cases which terminated in death, and cases wrongly diagnosed, are not included in these averages.

The operation of Tracheotomy was performed on six patients: all recovered. Late in the year several cases of Scarlet Fever developed Diphtheria and were isolated. Some of these cases became seriously ill, although fortunately none died. Their stay in Hospital was protracted, and contributed to the higher average number of days detained, in comparison with previous years.

The Hospital has been to some extent embarrassed during the year by the difficulty in engaging Probationer Nurses. In reply to advertisements offering greatly increased pay, there were many applicants, but, with very few exceptions, none were suitable, the chief trouble being that they were insufficiently educated. Nursing, as a profession, either seems no longer to attract the capable and earnest kind of young person previously available, or that kind of young person no longer exists.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Prosecutions. |
| Factories and Workshops (including Laundries) .. | 82 | 13 | |
| Total | 82 | 13 | |

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| | Found. | Remedied. |
| Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : | | |
| Want of Cleanliness | 6 | 2 |
| Want of Ventilation | 0 | 0 |
| Other Nuisances | 9 | 8 |
| Sanitary Accom- { insufficient | 2 | 2 |
| modation { unsuitable or defective | 5 | 4 |
| Total | 22 | 16 |

3.—Home Work.

| Nature of Work. | Number. |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Wearing Apparel— | |
| Lists Received | 8 |
| Outworkers—Workmen | 38 |

4.—Registered Workshops.

| Workshops on the Register at the end of the year. | Number. |
|---|---------|
| Workshops | 86 |
| Domestic Workshops | 47 |
| Bakehouses | 15 |
| Total | 148 |

5.—Other Matters.

| Class. | Number. |
|--|---------|
| Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901). | |
| Notified by H.M. Inspector .. | 3 |

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920 and previous Years.

NAME OF DISTRICT.—ROCHESTER.

| YEAR. | Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year. | Births, | | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | Transferable Deaths | | Nett Deaths belonging to the District | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|--------|-------|--|-------|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| | | Un- corrected Number. | Nett. | | Number. | Rate. | of Non- residents regis- tered in the District. | of Residents not regis- tered in the District. | Under 1 Year of Age. | | At all Ages. | |
| | | | Number | Rate. | | | | | Number | Rate per 1,000 nett Births | Number. | Rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1915 | 31733 | 657 | 661 | 20.8 | 555 | 17.4 | 141 | 51 | 53 | 80.1 | 465 | 14.6 |
| 1916 | 33002* 30332† | 707 | 710 | 21.5 | 472 | 15.5 | 117 | 57 | 53 | 74.6 | 411 | 13.5 |
| 1917 | 32211* 28896† | 588 | 598 | 18.5 | 574 | 19.8 | 252 | 51 | 54 | 90.3 | 373 | 12.9 |
| 1918 | 31727* 28316† | 590 | 603 | 19 | 647 | 22.8 | 239 | 63 | 54 | 89.5 | 471 | 16.6 |
| 1919 | 33449* 32110† | 584 | 602 | 17.9 | 543 | 16.9 | 222 | 44 | 40 | 66.4 | 365 | 11.3 |
| 1920 | 33849* 33389† | 788 | 803 | 23.7 | 535 | 16.0 | 201 | 47 | 54 | 67.2 | 381 | 11.4 |

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) } 2,936
* For Birth Rate. † For Death Rate.

Total population at all ages, 31,388
Total families or separate occupiers, 7,017

} At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1920.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

| Notifiable Disease. | Number of Cases Notified. | | | | | | | | Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District. | | Total cases removed to Hospital. |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------|--|-------|----------------------------------|
| | At all ages. | At Ages—Years. | | | | | | | South. | North | |
| | | Under 1 year. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 45 | 45 to 65. | 65 & upwards. | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 60 | | 12 | 44 | 3 | 1 | | | 48 | 12 | 50 |
| Diphtheria | 54 | | 14 | 34 | 6 | | | | 33 | 21 | 37 |
| Erysipelas | 7 | 1 | | | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 6 | 1 | |
| Enteric Fever | 3 | | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Puerperal Fever .. | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 16 | | | | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 4 | |
| Other Tuberculosis .. | 7 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | 4 | 3 | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | 4 | 2 | |
| Pneumonia | 12 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 6 | |
| Malaria | 4 | | | | | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| Totals | 170 | 7 | 29 | 84 | 21 | 20 | 3 | 6 | 118 | 52 | 89 |

The Hospital which receives these patients is St. William's Hospital, Rochester (Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Cerebro-Spinal Fever), controlled by the Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.

From the above Table are excluded one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three cases of Diphtheria, all notified from St. Bartholomew's Hospital but belonging to localities outside the District.

TABLE III.
CAUSES OF DEATH

| Causes of Death. | | | | Males. | Females. |
|---|---|----|----|---------|----------|
| (Civilians only) | | | | | |
| ALL CAUSES | .. | .. | .. | 185 | 196 |
| 1 | Enteric fever | .. | .. | | |
| 2 | Small-pox | .. | .. | | |
| 3 | Measles | .. | .. | 4 | |
| 4 | Scarlet fever | .. | .. | | |
| 5 | Whooping cough | | .. | | 1 |
| 6 | Diphtheria and croup | .. | | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | Influenza | .. | .. | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | Erysipelas | .. | .. | | 1 |
| 9 | Pulmonary tuberculosis | .. | | 11 | 11 |
| 10 | Tuberculous meningitis | .. | | 2 | 1 |
| 11 | Other tuberculous diseases | | | 3 | 2 |
| 12 | Cancer, malignant disease | | | 14 | 21 |
| 13 | Rheumatic fever | | .. | 3 | |
| 14 | Meningitis | .. | .. | | 2 |
| 15 | Organic heart disease | .. | | 10 | 28 |
| 16 | Bronchitis | .. | .. | 16 | 16 |
| 17 | Pneumonia (all forms) | .. | | 18 | 17 |
| 18 | Other respiratory diseases | | | 2 | |
| 19 | Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years). | .. | .. | 4 | 1 |
| 20 | Appendicitis & typhlitis | .. | | 1 | 2 |
| 21 | Cirrhosis of liver | .. | .. | 1 | |
| 21A | Alcoholism | .. | .. | | |
| 22 | Nephritis and Bright's disease. | .. | .. | 5 | 5 |
| 23 | Puerperal fever | .. | .. | | 1 |
| 24 | Parturition, apart from puerperal fever | .. | | | 2 |
| 25 | Congenital debility, &c. | .. | | 9 | 9 |
| 26 | Violence, apart from suicide | .. | .. | 8 | 4 |
| 27 | Suicide | .. | .. | 3 | 2 |
| 28 | Other defined diseases | .. | | 66 | 61 |
| 29 | Causes ill-defined or unknown | .. | .. | | |
| Special Causes (included above) | | | | | |
| | Cerebro-spinal fever | .. | | | |
| | Poliomyelitis | .. | .. | | |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—Total | | | | 32 | 22 |
| Illegitimate | | | | 2 | 4 |
| TOTAL BIRTHS | | | | 417 | 386 |
| Legitimate | | | | 404 | 374 |
| Illegitimate | | | | 13 | 12 |
| POPULATION for Birth rate | | | | 33,849. | |
| ,, for Death rate | | | | 33,389. | |

This Table is supplied by the Registrar-General.

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1920. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | | | | Under 1 week. | 1-2 Weeks. | 2-3 Weeks. | 3-4 Weeks. | Total under 4 weeks. | 4 Weeks and under 3 months. | 3 Months and under 6 Months. | 6 Months and under 9 Months. | 9 Months and under 12 Months. | Total Deaths under One Year. |
|--|---|----------------|----|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| All Causes | } | Certified .. | .. | 13 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 30 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 51 |
| | | Uncertified .. | .. | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Measles | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping Cough.. .. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Meningitis (not Tuberculous) .. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Convulsions | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Laryngitis.. .. . | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bronchitis.. .. . | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 3 | | | | 5 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) .. | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Diarrhœa | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Enteritis | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Injury at birth | | | | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Congenital Malformations .. | | | | 5 | 1 | | | 6 | | 1 | | | 7 |
| Premature birth | | | | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 1 | | | | 12 |
| Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Other Causes | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 4 | | 3 | | | 7 |
| Totals | | | | 13 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 30 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 52 |
| Nett Births registere d during the calendar year | | | | legitimate, 778 illegitimate, 25 | | | | Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year | | | | legitimate infants, 48 illegitimate infants, 6. | |

The Registrar General gives 54 as the total number of deaths under one year, of which two cannot be traced and are not included in this Table.

The Table shews that the total Infant Mortality Rate was 67.2 per 1000 births ; that the same rate amongst legitimate infants was 61.6 and amongst illegitimate infants was 240.

In 1919 the respective figures were 66.4, 57.9 and 212.1.

Housing

1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

- a.* There is an insufficient number of houses in the District.
- b.* The actual shortage of working class houses is probably about 100.
- c.* In order to meet this shortage and to generally improve the housing conditions of the District the Corporation has a scheme which provides for three sites, having a total area of 33 acres, with a proposed average of 12 houses to the acre.
At the time of writing three houses have been completed, three are nearing completion and 76 are under construction.
- d.* There have been no important changes in the population during the year and none are anticipated in the future.

2. OVERCROWDING.

- a.* There is considerable overcrowding in the sense that in many instances two or more families occupy a house adapted only for one family.
- b.* The principal cause of this is the shortage of houses.
- c.* The proposed remedy is the Corporation Housing Scheme.
- d.* Ten really bad cases of overcrowding came under observation during the year. No action could be taken beyond the somewhat barren course of advising the tenants to seek other accommodation.

3. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- a.* The general standard of housing in the District is not as good as is desirable, many houses still needing much in the way of repairs and sanitary improvements.
- b.* The defects generally are those of dampness, dilapidation, dirty walls and ceilings, defective window fittings, defective rainwater pipes, unsatisfactory drainage and w.c. accommodation.
- c.* The above conditions are to a great extent due to inability to get anything done during the war, to some extent to owners' disinclination to carry out work at present high cost, and to a smaller extent to the lack of available skilled labour.

4. ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES.

- a.* Under the Public Health Acts.
- b.* Under the Housing Acts.
Systematic inspections under these Acts have been impossible, owing to the time taken up by attending to the large number of complaints made with respect to isolated houses or groups of houses. The fact that during the year notices were served regarding nuisances or defects on 817 premises shows that there was considerable activity in making inspections, apart from systematic inspection.
Ninety-one statutory notices under the Public Health Acts and 49 statutory notices under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, were served during the year.
Nine Closing Orders were made under the Housing, &c., Act, 1909.
- c.* Difficulties as regards remedying unfitness have been to some extent described in a preceding paragraph, headed "Fitness of houses."
- d.* The conditions as regards water supply, closet accommodation, refuse removal, &c., are set forth in other parts of the Report. (See p. 5).

5. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

6. BYE-LAWS (as to houses let as lodgings, vans, tents, &c.)

- a.* There are none.
- b.* None are needed.

APPENDICES

HOUSING CONDITIONS

STATISTICS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

1. GENERAL.

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|----|----|----|---|------|
| 1. | Estimated population | .. | .. | .. | .. | For Birth Rate, 33,849 ; for Death Rate, 33,389 | |
| 2. | General Death Rate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11.4 |
| 3. | Death Rate from Tuberculosis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .89 |
| 4. | Infant Mortality Rate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 67.2 |
| 5. | Number of dwelling-houses of all classes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7000 |
| 6. | Number of working-class dwelling-houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5436 |
| 7. | Number of new working-class houses erected | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |

2. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

i. INSPECTION.—

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 542 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | 97 |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 9 |
| 4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 88 |

ii. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their officers | 275 |
|---|-----|

iii. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.—

| | |
|---|----|
| A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919. | |
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. | 49 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— | |
| <i>a.</i> by owners | 8 |
| <i>b.</i> by Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | 0 |
| B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 91 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | |
| <i>a.</i> by owner | 66 |
| <i>b.</i> by Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909. | |
| 1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.. .. | 9 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 9 |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | 1 |
| 4. Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 0 |

3. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no Unhealthy Areas in the District.

4. STAFF.

No member of the staff is specially told off for Housing Work, but the whole staff (4) deal with Housing matters in the ordinary course of their duties.

Report as to Port Sanitary Authority

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.
GENTLEMEN,
I have the honour to lay before you a Report of the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1920.

FORM A.
AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

| | | | Number | Tonnage | Number Inspected | Number Reported to be Defected | Number of Orders Issued |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Foreign | { | Steamers .. | 184 | 68705 | 181 | 80 | 80 |
| | | Sailing .. | 129 | 12501 | 106 | 1 | 1 |
| | | Fishing .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Total Foreign | | 313 | 81206 | 287 | 81 | 81 |
| Coastwise | { | Steamers .. | 297 | 172105 | 244 | 138 | 138 |
| | | Sailing .. | 63 | 4866 | 48 | 9 | 9 |
| | | Fishing .. | 14 | — | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total Coastwise | | 374 | 176971 | 306 | 147 | 147 |
| Total Foreign and Coastwise | | | 687 | 258177 | 593 | 228 | 228 |

FORM B.

No ship arrived in the Port direct from a Plague infected Port, but on January 20th, the s.s. “ Simoon ” arrived from Bathurst and the captain reported two men died during the voyage and two sick. The latter were found to be suffering from Malignant Malaria and were removed to the Hospital of the Port of London at Denton. The vessel was fumigated and cleansed, and 18 old beds and a quantity of old clothing were burnt in the ship’s furnace. The crew left the ship at this Port and went to their several homes. The Medical Officers of Health of the various districts to which the crew proceeded were duly advised.

No organised measures for the destruction of Rats were undertaken during the year.

The following were also boarded by the Port Sanitary Inspector :—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Barges .. | 1094 |
| Canal Boats .. | 221 |
| Lighters .. | 101 |
| Water Boats .. | 2 |
| Total number of vessels inspected .. | 2011 |
| Total number in 1919 .. | 1973 |
| “ “ 1918 .. | 1952 |
| “ “ 1917 .. | 1980 |
| “ “ 1916 .. | 1932 |
| “ “ 1915 .. | 2467 |
| “ “ 1914 .. | 2914 |
| “ “ 1913 .. | 2733 |
| “ “ 1912 .. | 2652 |
| “ “ 1911 .. | 2808 |

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

British, 1938 ; Dutch, 28 ; Norwegian, 15 ; Belgian, 7 ; Finnish, 4 ; Swede, 3 ; Danish, 3 ; French, 2 ; Spanish, 2 ; German, 2 ; Esthonian, 2 ; Russian, 1 ; American, 1 ; Greek, 1 ; Chinese, 1 ; Nova Scotian, 1.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The chief articles exported are Cement, Cattle Cake and Oil. The chief imports are Timber, Coal, China Clay, Flour, Fruit, Stone, Corn and various Seeds and Kernels for making Cattle Cake.

Import Trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, German and Baltic Ports in Europe, and with Chinese and West African Ports.

Cement is shipped practically to all parts of the world, either direct or first taken to London for trans-shipment.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are the Tyne, Humber, Tees and Sunderland, most of the Scottish Ports, Liverpool, Dublin, Bristol, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry and London.

REPORT AS TO THE EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1920.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INSPECTOR.—Henry Evans, 63 Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.
Remuneration £4 per annum

No boat was detained during the year.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of new boats registered | 0 |
| „ boats re-registered owing to structural alterations | 0 |
| „ „ „ for other reasons | 0 |
| „ „ on Register on December 31st, 1920 | 142 |
| „ „ inspected | 221 |
| „ „ with one or more infringements | 18 |
| Total number of infringements | 27 |
| „ „ remedied | 27 |
| „ women on boats inspected | 2 |
| „ children under five years | 3 |
| „ boats on Register | 142 |

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Masters without Certificates | 1 |
| Boats not properly marked | 3 |
| Cabins not in cleanly condition | 4 |
| Cabins out of repair | 4 |
| Cabins requiring to be painted | 3 |
| Boats with defective bulk heads | 1 |
| Drinking water tank to cleanse.. .. . | 9 |
| Leaky decks causing wet berths | 2 |

No case of Infectious Disease was met with, nor was it necessary to take legal steps in respect of any infringement.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK IN THE PORT.

Systematic inspections of the shipping of the Port are made and vessels specially visited, and their crews medically inspected as occasion requires. Under an agreement with the Port of London their Medical Officer at Sheerness inspects all ships bound for the Port of Rochester.

The facilities for visiting the shipping in the Port of Rochester consist only of one small rowing boat, and there is no proper place in which even to keep this. There is no boat ambulance for the removal of patients from ship to shore and there is no provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons and their belongings.

The local Hospital for Infectious Diseases receives cases of Small Pox, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

WATER BOATS.

Two boats are used for supplying ships with water for drinking purposes. The tanks of each boat have been cleaned out and lime washed six times during the year.

CASES OF SICKNESS.

VENEREAL DISEASE.—The local facilities for the treatment of Venereal Disease are fully made known to each vessel entering the Port. Two cases only were reported during the year.

Thirty-nine other cases of sickness came under observation. Two, of Malignant Malaria, have already been noted. The other cases were not of a serious nature.

VESSELS FROM INFECTED PORTS.

The s.s. “Simoon,” referred to on a previous page, was the only ship arriving direct from an infected port.

PASSENGERS.

As far as known, no passengers arrived in the Port.

CARGOES.

Cargoes of Flour, Malt, Wheat, Beans, Oats, Barley and Fish were examined and found to be in good condition.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Otterham Quay, Halstow, Whitewall and Janes Creek were visited from time to time and call for no special remark.

Riverside factories and wharves have been periodically visited and the Port Regulations duly posted.

Twenty-one dead dogs found on the foreshore were buried.

The following Table shews the number of notices served by the Port Sanitary Inspector during the year on vessels other than Canal Boats, and the nuisances discovered and dealt with :—

| | Foreign. | Coastwise. | Barges. | Total. |
|---|----------|------------|---------|--------|
| Forecastles to cleanse | 57 | 85 | 0 | 142 |
| Cabins to cleanse | 0 | 0 | 21 | 21 |
| Forecastles to paint | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Cabins to paint | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Defective light in cabins or forecastles ... | 0 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Defective ventilation in cabins or forecastles | 4 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| Leaky decks causing wet berths | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| Drinking water tanks to cleanse | 16 | 24 | 23 | 63 |
| Defective bulkheads | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Stoves and funnels to renew | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| Dirty bedding to cleanse | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| To remove ships stores from crew space ... | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| W.C.'s to cleanse and disinfect | 30 | 50 | 0 | 80 |
| Peaks and Lazarettes to cleanse and limewash | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| Side scuttles and deck prisms to refit ... | 7 | 21 | 0 | 28 |
| Bilges to cleanse and disinfect | 0 | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Defective floors in cabin or forecastle ... | 0 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Food cupboards to cleanse, paint or ventilate | 13 | 25 | 6 | 44 |
| Defective W.C. pans and fittings | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cable stage to clean out and limewash ... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Dirty old beds burnt | 18 | 12 | 2 | 32 |
| Defective scuppers in forecastle | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Defective skylights | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Skylights to glaze | 1 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| To remove filth from forecastle... .. | 8 | 3 | 0 | 11 |
| Sleeping berths to paint | 0 | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| To provide covers to drinking water tanks | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| To provide bottom boards to sleeping berths | 4 | 4 | 4 | 12 |
| Skylight and scuttle hatch combings to caulk | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| To repair W.C. seat and doors | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Vessels disinfected | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Drinking water tanks to liquid cement ... | 4 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Overcrowding | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Seat lockers to repair | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Cabin ladders to repair | 1 | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| Scuttle hatches to repair | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | 180 | 279 | 132 | 591 |

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
S. PRITCHETT,
Medical Officer of Health.